

Georgia Department of Human Resources

TEENS, SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES AND AIDS

About 18,768 Georgia teens ages 10-19 were reported to have a newly diagnosed sexually transmitted disease (STD) in 2001, including 5,606 cases of gonorrhea, 13,146 cases of chlamydia and 16 cases of primary and secondary syphilis. Experts believe that many cases of STDs are not diagnosed or, if diagnosed, are not reported, making the impact of STDs on teens much higher. (*Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, Prevention Services Branch*)

- STDs, including gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, and herpes simplex virus, increase the risk of transmitting or acquiring HIV from an infected partner through unprotected sex.
- Young adults ages 20 to 29 years have accounted for 19 percent of all AIDS cases reported in Georgia from 1981 through June 2002. Given the long time between HIV infection and the development of AIDS, most of these young people are likely to have been infected during adolescence. (*DHR Division of Public Health, Prevention Services Branch and Epidemiology Branch*)
- In 2001, over 8,000 girls in Georgia ages 10 to 17 became pregnant; nearly 700 of these were under 15-years-old. (*DHR Division of Public Health*)
- Use of drugs and alcohol impair a person's willingness and ability to postpone sex or use condoms and other precautions consistently and correctly while having sex. (*Journal of Adolescent Health, March 1988*)

Good News::

Reversing trends of the past two decades, fewer young people are engaging in risky sex behaviors. CDC reports a steady decline for 1991-1997 in the proportion of high school students who have ever had sexual intercourse and the proportion who have had sex with multiple partners. (*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*)

The teenage pregnancy rate in Georgia has declined 19 percent, from about 59 per 1,000 girls age 10-19 in 1990 to 48 per 1,000 in 1997. (*DHR Division of Public Health*)